

PROBING IROQUOIS HORROR

Negligence Shown on Part of Men Handling Curtain.

CHARGED WITH ROBBING DEAD.

Alleged to Have Taken Money From Iroquois Victims.

Charged with robbing the dead and dying at the Iroquois theater fire three men have been placed under arrest by the Chicago police. The first of the alleged ghouls to be captured was Louis Witz, keeper of the Illinois saloon, located at Dearborn and Randolph streets, a few doors from the main entrance of the theater. It is alleged that Witz robbed the body of a dying woman, Mrs. E. J. Trask, securing \$199 which, it is alleged, was divided among three men, two of whom were arrested after Witz. The other two arrested are Charles Conway, said to have received \$20, and Thomas McCarthy, alleged to have been given \$27.50. The third man, still at large, is a stranger who was given \$12. It is said that Witz confessed that \$210 was taken from the body of Mrs. Trask when she was carried dying into the saloon.

The first definite testimony showing negligence on the part of the men in charge of the Iroquois stage curtains developed Monday. John F. Dougherty, who stated that he was employed at the theater, was the witness from whom the evidence was obtained.

"Did you try to lower the asbestos curtain on the day of the fire?" he was asked.

"Yes. A man came running over to me from the south end of the stage and said to lower the asbestos curtain for there was a fire. I tried to lower it, but it was too heavy and some one jostled me, and my hand was caught. Someone else came and pulled down the rope and released me and shoved me out of the way."

"Do you mean to say that you ran from the back of the stage to the front, grabbed the rope to lower the asbestos curtain and tried to do so before the regular men in charge of the curtain could reach it?" queried Deputy Coroner Buckley.

"I guess that is so," admitted Dougherty.

Witness said he knew the men in charge of the theater curtains, but did not know where they were when the fire broke out and the call came for the curtain. He did not see them anywhere in the fire.

Four additional churches were closed today by City Building Commissioner Williams. A dozen halls were also added to the list of places under the ban for violation of the building ordinance.

MADE \$20,000 A YEAR.

Machen's Bank Account Shows That On Salary of \$3,500.

An interesting incident in the trial of August W. Machen, the Goff brothers and the Lorenzes, on an indictment charging conspiracy to defraud the government in connection with the sale of letter box fasteners came just before the usual hour for adjournment. Throughout the day bank officials had been testifying concerning various checks and drafts which passed between D. B. Goff and Martha J. Lorenz and George E. Lorenz and Machen.

After J. W. Herring, cashier of the Union National bank of Westminster, Md., had told of the various transactions of Machen with his bank, Mr. Taggart, assistant district attorney, offered in evidence the transcript of Machen's entire dealings with that institution to the admission of which Charles A. Douglass objected.

Taking up the document Holmes Conrad, special counsel for the government, contended that it was admissible, and remarked that in looking over it, it appeared that by strict economy Machen, on a salary of \$3,500 a year had managed to make \$20,000 a year.

CABLE MESSAGES.

The University of Berlin has conferred the degree of doctor of philosophy, with the greatest praise, on Miss Ina Milroy, of Detroit, Mich., for her work in chemistry. She orally defended her proposition against three male opponents. Miss Milroy is the tenth woman to receive a doctorate from the Berlin University, of which number five are Americans.

The bye-election at Gateshead to fill the seat in the House of Commons made vacant by the recent death of Sir William Allen, advanced Radical, has resulted in victory for John Johnson, Liberal free trader, by a majority of 1,205 votes over Lord Morpeth, Unionist and tariff reformer.

The house in which Verdi was born, at Bassora, near Palma, is to be sold at public auction. The house is the property of the Marquis Pallavicino, now in reduced circumstances. Creditors insist upon the sale.

Germany is preparing to make a million-dollar exhibit at the St. Louis Fair.

The Asiatic Labor bill passed its second reading in the Legislative Council at Pretoria.

Swaney's Body Found.

The body of Homer H. Swaney, formerly of McKeesport, Pa., was picked up by the tug Bahada, two miles north of Dungeness Light, and was brought to Port Angeles, Wash. Both his eyes were gone, but otherwise the body was in a good state of preservation. It was encased in a life preserver. Mr. Swaney was president of the Pacific Steel Company, of Irondale, and the Seattle Steel and Iron Company, of Seattle. He lost his life on a steamer Clallam wreck.

EVIDENCE AGAINST MOTHER.

Shocking Story Told in Bechtel Murder Trial.

The chain of circumstantial evidence which the Commonwealth is attempting to forge around Mrs. Catherine Bechtel, charged with being an accessory after the fact in the murder of her daughter Mabel, at Allentown, Pa., was strengthened by the witnesses called by the prosecution.

Alois Eckstein's story of the relations of himself and other men with Mabel Bechtel was shocking. He went so far as to testify that the mother countenanced the misconduct of her daughter. He related his visit to the Bechtel home on the day that Mabel's body is alleged to have been hidden in the house, and said that the actions of the members of the family appeared strange to him.

Under cross-examination Eckstein said he loved Mabel and he thought she cared for him. He understood it was agreed that he should marry her. Mabel, however, always put him off when he mentioned the subject. He admitted having struck the girl.

"I heard that Mabel had received attentions from a well-known man in town," Eckstein said, "and that her mother told her to get all she could out of him. I upbraided Mabel about it and told her that if she kept on acting like that I'd never have anything to do with her. Then she ran into the kitchen and got a knife. When she came back at me, I struck her to defend myself." Witness told of other quarrels he had had with Mabel, and of Weisenberg's appearance on the scene and of the manner in which Mabel transferred her affections to him.

Dr. John Lear, a biological expert of Muhlenberg college, testified that the stains on the carpet and other articles taken from the Bechtel house, were human blood stains.

The wooden steps leading from the kitchen to the cellar were shown to the witness, and without qualification he said that the spots on the boards were human blood stains. By this the Commonwealth will endeavor to prove that the body of the murdered girl had been carried down those steps and placed in the alley, where it was later found.

The court adjourned early to permit Judge Trexler to attend the funeral of his father-in-law.

TWENTY HURT IN WRECK.

Street Car Jumps Track and Plunges Down Embankment.

An east-bound car on the Rankin and Swissvale branch of the Pittsburgh Railways company jumped the track at Third street and Kenmawr avenue, Rankin. It plunged over a 25-foot embankment, and in the resulting wreck 20 of the 23 passengers were injured. An official statement issued by the company puts the number of passengers at not more than 19 and the number of injured at 15. Medical attention was rendered, however, to the larger number.

Three of the injured may die. All of these were employees of the company, Samuel Callahan, a motorman; P. C. Starkey, a conductor, and John Frazier, a conductor.

The car left the track at a sharp curve. The rails were slippery from the rain, and although a safety stop is always made just before cars reach the curve the brakes refused to work last night. The result was that car 1057 hit the curve at a much higher rate of speed than it had been running a moment before.

When the car left the track it leaped to the curbstone, a distance of about 10 feet, tore down a fence surmounting the stone wall along Kenmawr avenue, plunged over the wall and down the 25-foot embankment.

Old Couple Tortured.

Breaking into the home of Benjamin Yealy in Cook township, Westmoreland county, two masked robbers subjected the aged couple, the only occupants of the house, to torture in an attempt to learn the hiding place of a board of money said to have been secreted. The robbers were unsuccessful in locating the treasure, only securing \$8. The Yealys live in a lonely road near the foot of Chestnut ridge.

MAY INCREASE ASSESSMENT.

Miners Determine to Provide Funds for Pending Strikes.

The United Mine Workers of America, at Indianapolis authorized their executive board to levy a special strike per capita assessment for the support of the strikers in Colorado, West Virginia and the Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, district. There are 8,000 miners out in Colorado and 5,000 in the other two districts. Indications are that the present 10 cents a month per capita strike assessment will be increased 25 cents. This would be ample to continue the strikes in these districts indefinitely. The unanimous sentiment expressed today was to not reduce the National treasury reserve below the \$1,000,000,000 mark.

Cannot Bar Negroes.

The United States supreme court again reaffirmed the ruling made in the case of Carter vs. the State of Texas to the effect that the exclusion of negroes from grand juries in cases involving criminal charges against members of their race in violation of the constitution and therefore not permissible.

Gold Found in Ohio.

The samples of gold recently discovered in Allen township, Union county, have been returned from the United States assay office and pronounced to be the genuine article. The Six Eagle Mining Company of Ada, which has charge of the leases in that section, is preparing to sink a shaft for the purpose of mining. Excitement runs high in that neighborhood and land has taken a wonderful jump in price.

A WORLD WAR THREATENED

Russian Statesman Looks for It If Trouble Begins.

IRRITATED AT UNITED STATES.

Blames England, Also, for Countenancing Tokio Government's Attitude in the Crisis.

A message from St. Petersburg says: In diplomatic circles, where indications are eagerly sought as to how political straws are pointing, much interest is aroused at a bad quarter of an hour which the British Ambassador recently had when calling upon Count Lamsdorf, the latter's reception of Sir Charles Scott being of the most frigid order. This fully confirms the intense irritation in the highest quarters against England. The same angry sentiment is today being extended freely to America.

It is being declared here that Russia has not got to do with Japan so much as with England and that the Anglo-Japanese alliance is at the bottom of all of the present trouble. The echo is now loudly heard of the utterances of those far-seeing politicians who at the moment of the alliance announced and proclaimed that this political "coup" meant war against Russia as destroying the balance of power in the Far East. It is urged by many that the time has come for Russia to retaliate for the "pin-prick policy of England" by a demonstration toward the Indian frontier, and also by aggressive political tactics in Persia.

Count Lamsdorf was yesterday handed a duplicate note of Japan's reply by Japanese Minister Kurino, whose sincerity as a friend of peace warmly appeals to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count Lamsdorf, who, it is interesting to know, will surely do everything possible to avert war, which he, a lifelong friend of Witte, looks upon with the utmost repugnance. The Count is firmly of the opinion shared by every seasoned politician and diplomat here, and which with characteristic frankness he communicated to the Emperor, that if war breaks out between Japan and Russia nothing can prevent a general international conflict.

There is a large war element, which seems liable at any moment to force the hands of the peace lovers. Plehos, who is now the most powerful man in the Cabinet, has been credited with being a friend of war. If so, he conceals it well, for a few days ago, in a long conversation, he expressed himself strongly for peace, saying:

"Russia can only accept war if forced on her."

Witte has not the ear of the Emperor, so he is powerless to urge effectively his peace propaganda. What is dangerous at this critical period is the large military element.

JAPAN WILL NOT YIELD.

Russia Will Defy United States at Manchurian Ports.

The Pekin correspondent of the London Times declares that Japan's latest note is stronger in tone than the preceding one and that she will neither yield her moderate standpoint nor accept the mediation of a third power.

The Port Arthur correspondent of the Mail cables that he has had an interview with Admiral Alexoff, who declared that the action of the United States in making a commercial treaty with China without Russia's consent was unfriendly. Russia, he said, would not open or allow consuls at Mukden and Antung under the present regime.

Pure Food Bill Passed.

The House passed the Hepburn pure food bill on a voting vote of 201 to 93, its opponents being unable to secure a roll call. The amendment, inserting the word "willful" with reference to persons who sell adulterated or misbranded goods and which would have compelled the government to prove intent to violate the law by the vendors, was stricken out. Several attempts were made to amend the bill, but no material changes were made.

FLOOD IN THE OHIO.

Large Losses Caused by High Water and Runaway Ice.

The rivers reached 30 feet at Pittsburg, flooding all the lower districts, and the heavy ice crushed many small boats.

At Cincinnati two small packets were wrecked by the breaking of ice gorges and the number of barges lost will never be known. The total direct loss is placed at \$200,000.

At Steubenville the river reached 42 feet in inches. The upper part of the steamer T. M. Bayne, which was sunk, collapsed and was washed away.

Great damage was done to property at New Cumberland, W. Va., and at Empire.

Smoot Inquiry Decided Upon.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections yesterday determined to investigate the charges against Senator Smoot, and authorized Senator Burrows, chairman, to present a resolution in the Senate permitting the committee to send for witnesses and documents.

Shelby Steel Works Burned.

The United States Steel Corporation sustained an indefinite loss by fire at the plant of the Shelby Steel Tube Company. The fire started in one of the smaller stock rooms from a defective electric wire and spread to the larger stock rooms, completely destroying all of them. The product of the entire plant for the past six months was destroyed within an hour, consisting of 800,000 tons, making an additional 25,000,000 feet of finished product and valued at \$3,000,000.

EXPLOSION KILLS THREE.

Steam Pipe Bursts, Wrecking Mill and Burying Men.

Three men are dead and eight are injured as a result of the breaking of a governor belt, allowing an immense fly-wheel to run away and burst in the Cambria Steel Company's No. 2 rail mill at Johnstown, Pa. Three are dead and eight are more or less injured.

Most of those killed and hurt are foreigners who were employed in the mill.

The explosion brought down the whole section of roof running from the puddling mill to the finishing shed of the mill. The woodwork at once took fire from the furnaces and it burned fiercely.

The accident was the result of the engine in the mill running off, as the result of the governor belt breaking. The wheel was about 30 feet in diameter, and exploded with terrific force, smashing into the large steam main that ran along the roof of the building and causing it to burst. In a moment the entire No. 2 mill was a scene of confusion and devastation.

Shutdown for Six Months.

The Alliance plant of the American Steel Foundries Company shut down for an indefinite period. Supt. Wallace said lack of orders was the cause of the shutdown. Up to December the plant employed about 800 men, but at the present time the force only numbers about 300 men. Officials say the plant will not resume work for six months. A number of the foremen and melters will be sent to other plants under the same control.

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES.

In a mine cave-in at Rouse, Col., six men lost their lives.

The Socialist party will hold its national convention in Chicago May 1.

The net earnings of Southern Railway for November decreased \$4,318.

Germany will rush troops to the scene of the revolt in German South Africa.

The gross earnings of Wabash for the second week in January increased \$43,000.

Additional United States warships and marines will be sent to Chemulpo, Korea.

The Japanese reply to Russia's last note is not believed to improve the prospects for peace.

Edward K. Landis, a noted chemist of Philadelphia, shot and killed himself and his wife.

In St. Petersburg it is expected that other nations will be drawn in if Russia and Japan fight.

The July option in cotton on the New York pit sold for 14.23 cents, a new high record.

The Constitutional Convention of Panama held its first session and took over supreme power from the junta.

Fire in the Chicago Milling and Malt Company plant caused \$75,000 damages.

In the Senate Mr. Patterson (Dem. Cal.) arraigned the course of the Administration in regard to Panama.

A crippled little girl was trampled to death in a panic during a fire which destroyed a Dayton (Ohio) public school house.

J. W. Marr, President of a Clinton, Ia., building and loan association, was indicted on a charge of embezzling \$31,000.

Mr. Spooner, (Rep., Wis.), advanced the argument that there might be such a thing as a right of international eminent domain.

A law providing compulsory compensation for Russian factory employees and miners in case of accident became effective.

Senator Morgan, of Alabama, introduced a bill providing for the annexation of the Republic of Panama by the United States.

The main building of the State Normal School at Greensboro, N. C., was destroyed by fire and 350 young women students were rescued.

TORNADO DESTROYS TOWN

Moundsville, Alabama, Suddenly Removed from the Map.

PATH HALF A MILE WIDE SWEEP.

Many Homes, Hotels and Warehouses Demolished by the Wind's Velocity.

A disastrous tornado swept over Moundsville, a town of 300 inhabitants, 15 miles south of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and as a result 37 persons were killed, and more than 100 injured. Every business house, with the exception of a small drugstore, was completely destroyed.

The tornado struck the town from the southwest, and mowed a path a quarter of a mile wide through the town.

All but five of those killed were negroes.

Surgeons were rushed to Moundsville from Greensboro and Tuscaloosa, and all possible was done to alleviate the sufferings of the injured. By the force of the storm persons were blown hundreds of feet from their beds in the blackness of the night.

Through terror, a father, mother and three children fled from their home to seek refuge, and in their excitement left a 5-year-old boy in bed. He was pulled from beneath some timber and thus far it is impossible to find any other member of the family.

Bedding, carpets and wearing apparel were scattered for a distance of 10 miles through what was a forest, but which is now as clear as though cut by the woodman's axe. Freight cars were torn to splinters, the trucks from them being hurled hundreds of feet from the track.

The depot, the hotel, warehouses, guns, 30 homes and many stores, together with their stocks, were completely destroyed. It is impossible to find even the pillars upon which these structures rested. Bales of cotton stored in warehouses were torn to atoms, the fragments of lint lodging in trees, making it appear as though that section had been visited by a snow-storm.

A young clerk employed by W. P. Puffer, hearing the terrible roaring of the storm, let himself into a well in the center of the store. He no sooner found his place of safety when the store was completely demolished. He was drawn out uninjured.

WAR AND BLOODSHED.

Anarchy Reigns Supreme in Santo Domingo.

Santo Domingo is at present in a state of anarchy. War and bloodshed ride over the country. The torch of desolation has been kindled. Homes are being wrecked, plantations ruined, and misery, starvation and death sweep over the republic.

Three distinct revolutions are in full swing. Gen. Jimenez and his followers opposed to Gen. Morales and his, while the followers of former President Alejandro Wos y Gil are seeking to gain a firm footing. All three parties lack the necessary funds to push their respective interests and designs with vigor, hence Gen. Morales holds his own in the city of Santo Domingo, Jimenez is supreme in Santiago de los Caballeros, while the followers of Wos y Gil are seeking to gain ground in Puerto Plata under the guise of being allies of Jimenez.

There is no money in the country. The native currency is nickel, the dollar having a value of only 20 cents American money in the republic, and is valueless outside the country. Local loans can no longer be raised, foreign loans cannot be negotiated, as there is no foreign concern that would loan the Republic five cents in its present condition.

BANK WRECKED.

Defalcation of More Than the Capital and Surplus.

The Produce Exchange Banking Company, Broadway and Central avenues, Cleveland, closed its doors. The insolvency court has appointed the Cleveland Trust Company receiver. The assets and liabilities of the bank are placed each at \$1,500,000.

Attorney Andrew Squire, on behalf of the bank, made the following statement this afternoon:

"There is a defalcation of \$170,000, which is more than the paid-in capital and surplus combined. The original capital was \$200,000, but only \$50 per share was paid in. The depositors will have to pay in \$100,000 more on their capital stock and \$200,000 in stockholders' liability."

Mrs. Arthur Oswald, driven insane, it was thought, by loneliness, killed and beheaded her 5-year-old son at Oakland, near Paterson, N. J.

Sixty Persons Were Drowned.

It is now estimated that 60 persons were drowned as a result of the bursting of a reservoir at Bloemfontein, Orange River colony, which also destroyed 176 houses and three hotels.

There was a public funeral and interment of 23 of the bodies already recovered. The ceremonies were attended by all the local officials, and 2,000 of the inhabitants. The shops were closed and the town is in mourning.

Sharon Has Forty Fever Cases.

The rapid development of typhoid fever in Sharon, Pa., has stirred up the health board to action and a strong effort is being made to discover the extent of the disease. Health Officer Yahress made a partial canvass of the physicians and finds that there are now 40 cases in the city, besides several in South Sharon. One death has occurred in Sharon and one in South Sharon. The board has asked the Sharon Water Works company to make an analysis of the city water.

DROWNED IN STREAMS.

Horse and Cutter Swept Away—Bridge Gives Away.

Three men and a horse and cutter, while driving across a stream near Pierpont, Ashtabula county, Ohio, were swept away by the flood. Dexter Smith was drowned and his body has not yet been recovered. George Hazeltine, after being swept a quarter of a mile, succeeded in getting out. It is feared, however, that he may not recover from his injuries. Joseph Frick, the other occupant of the sleigh, was not seriously injured.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Huffman, of Greenville, Pa., attempted to drive from Tyrrell Hill to their home in Greenville. In crossing the bridge over Big Tankee the bridge gave way and all were precipitated into the river. Huffman was drowned. Mrs. Huffman was taken out in an unconscious condition.

HOTEL BLOWN UP BY GAS.

Three Killed, Two Fatally and Ten Seriously Injured.

In an explosion which wrecked the Seitz Hotel at Marion, Ind., three people were killed, two fatally hurt and 10 seriously injured.

The seriously injured were all guests of the hotel. The explosion is attributed to natural gas, which escaped into the basement from a pipe line running near the hotel.

The building was a two-story brick, the hotel occupying the second floor. The outer walls were blown out, the second floor falling on the first with the roof on it. The guests were under the wreck, which at once ignited. They were asleep in their rooms when the explosion occurred. The property loss is \$25,000.

WHITAKER WRIGHT ON TRIAL.

Says He Took Money Intended for Family to Help Company.

Whitaker Wright, the company promoter, on trial on the charge of fraud testified today. He told of the foundation of the London and Globe Corporation, which, he declared, was prosperous until the end of 1899, after the South African war had started, when matters became disastrous. The witness added that he assisted the company out of his private pocket, lending it between \$2,000,000 and \$2,500,000. Previous to this he had prepared a settlement of \$1,500,000 on his family, giving \$500,000 to each of his children, but one day in 1899 the company's accountant informed him that he must have \$1,500,000 or the company would be obliged to suspend. The witness said he supplied the money and, consequently, the settlement on his family was never carried out.

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN DIES.

Excentric Man Who Took Part in Great Enterprises.

George Francis Train died from heart disease at Mills Hotel, No. 1, New York, where he has lived for some years.

George Francis Train was born in Boston, March 24, 1829. He organized the firm of Train & Co., shipping agents, with offices here and in Australia, and started the first clipper ships to California in 1849. He made an independent race for president in 1872.

He promoted the building of the Atlantic and Great Western, and the Union Pacific railroads, and introduced the first street railways in Europe, Asia and Australia. He made four trips around the world, one of them in 60 days, holding the record. In 1870 he organized the French commune at Marseilles, and two years later was tried for insanity, to avoid trial for obscenity.

Lived 133 Years.

Linda Allison, colored, who lived to the advanced age of 133 years and 2 months, died at her home, Pensacola, Fla. She was the oldest living person known in the United States, and was born on the family plantation in Virginia, where she lived for nearly a century. She was the slave of one of the oldest families in the South, and was given her freedom after having served them for 75 years. When the end of the Civil War was witnessed she came to Florida with a daughter, who is now one of the oldest living residents.

Says He Accepted a Bribe.

Ex-Alderman James O. McCoil, of Grand Rapids, Mich., pleaded guilty to the charge of accepting a bribe from Lant K. Salsburg for aiding the water deal. Ex-City Clerk Isaac F. LeMoreaux also changed his plea of not guilty to guilty. He was charged with conspiracy in the water deal, also having acknowledged the receipt of money from Salsburg.

Stole Safe and All.

Train robbers stole the iron safe from the express car of the Sunset limited northbound on the Southern Pacific railway near San Luis Obispo and it is understood the robbers secured a large amount of treasure from the stolen strong box, the sum being placed as high as \$80,000. This, however, is denied at the office of Wells, Fargo & Co.

Three Brakemen Killed.

C. W. Ayres and Wade Manford, Baltimore and Ohio brakemen, each about 27 years of age, were crushed to death within a few moments of each other in the big Brunswick yard. A short time before brakeman Claude Spriggs, aged 19, of Plane No. 4, was killed by a train.

Wreck Hurts Three Men.

There was a bad wreck on the Tyrone division of the Pennsylvania railroad in which three men were hurt and 25 cars piled up. The injured are Conductor E. P. Moore, Engineer A. Mehan, and R. W. Woomer. The accident occurred one mile south of Oseola and was caused by a freight train of 60 empty cars running into the work train. Traffic was blocked nearly all day. All three men were hurt in jumping from their train. None of the work train crew was injured.